# Camissa Islamic Global Equity Fund Quarterly commentary September 2023



The fund was down 3.8% in the third quarter, slightly underperforming its benchmark of FTSE World Index (down 3.3%). The fund outperformed its benchmark over the past year by 1.8% (up 24.4%). However, it underperformed over the past 3 years, up 4.5% (versus the benchmark up 8.4%).

### **Economic backdrop**

Global economic activity has decelerated but is proving reasonably resilient in the face of very rapid monetary tightening. The US economy is demonstrating surprising strength, with a relatively resilient consumer underpinned by a strong labour market with very low unemployment.

Europe's economy, which has been slow given China's weak economic recovery, should benefit from improving consumer real disposable income due to firm wages and sharply falling inflation. Notwithstanding an extremely loose monetary policy, a very weak yen and weak exports to China, Japanese economic activity has been solid. Japan has improving private consumption and business investment, as well as continued export growth.

The Chinese economy's recovery has fallen well short of expectations after the lifting of prolonged pandemic lockdowns. Although contactintensive service industries are experiencing a rebound, the property market, manufacturing sector and export industries remain very weak. Near term growth prospects are strong however and should be boosted by government stimulus measures.

Economic activity in South Africa is severely constrained by an inadequate and acutely unstable electricity supply, the underperformance of transport infrastructure, poor service delivery from weak and revenue-hungry municipalities and chronically low business confidence. Additionally, the economic contribution from the mining sector that has benefitted from high commodity prices, is now far weaker. For these reasons, coupled with the sizable government debt burden and a large, unskilled population with high unemployment, we remain pessimistic regarding the structural growth rate for the local economy. Gradual steps taken by government toward economic reforms (now involving more productive private sector partnerships) are vital to stabilise the economy and prevent further decline.

#### **Markets review**

Global markets were negative in the third quarter (down 3.4% in US dollars), with Germany (down 7.7%) and Japan (down 6.6%) underperforming. Emerging markets were also weak in the period (down 2.8%), albeit stronger than developed markets, with outperformance from Turkey (up 32.8%) and India (up 2.9%). South Korea (down 6.2%), Brazil (down 5.0%) and South Africa (down 4.4%), however, underperformed.

## **Fund performance and positioning**

Key positive contributors were Hochtief, Bayer and SKF. Global equity detractors included Pfizer, Johnson Electric and Roche. We remain overweight European equities and substantially underweight US equities relative to our benchmark.

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### **Disclaimer**

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Additional information: Please read the Key investor information in conjunction with the Supplemental Deed of the fund and the Fund prospectus.